

March 12, 1985

TO: File

FROM: Steve Cox, Reclamation Biologist *SC*

RE: On-site Visit, U. S. Steel Corporation, Desert Mound Mine, ACT/021/003, Iron County, Utah

On March 8, 1985, I was accompanied on a tour of U. S. Steel's Desert Mound Mine properties by Roy Benson and Jerry Ward. The purpose of the visit was to observe reclamation of the office complex and loadout facilities area and to clarify U. S. Steel's April 18, 1984 response to the Division's previous letters of February 15 and March 20, 1984.

The office complex has been torn down and scrap metal was being hauled away. The tippie was being dismantled and power poles removed. Once the trash has been cleaned up, the site will be regraded. Compacted areas will be ripped and scarified. Seeding of the site will take place before April 15 or will be delayed until the fall of 1985. This will help ensure that there is sufficient soil moisture for seed germination. Since no topsoil was saved during original construction, they will use what is available at the site.

Several foundations remained at the time of the site visit. In a phone conversation between Mr. Benson and Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Reclamation Engineer, it was agreed that foundations will be either transported off-site or broken up and buried. They will be broken into pieces no bigger than three ft³ and buried at least three feet deep.

The haul road which goes to the Desert Mound Pit will be turned over to the county according to Mr. Benson. He will submit the necessary information and documents which convey the responsibility for the road to the county. The powerline which runs adjacent to the road has been dismantled and the poles removed. The water well (Well No. 2) south of the office site will be leased to Rex Murie, a Cedar City rancher, to water livestock. U. S. Steel will retain the water rights.

The water tanks which were located on the abandoned dump above the office have been removed and the two substations (one at the office site and one east of the Rattler Pit) have also been removed. The powder house will be removed within the week and this area plus the access road to it will be ripped, scarified and seeded.

The Lindsay Hill Pit which is a pre-Law pit will be given to the county to be used as a sanitary landfill for Cedar City residents.

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During the visit, Mr. Benson told me that the Blackhawk Fines area which was scheduled to be reclaimed last fall was being worked. The remaining stockpile will be depleted by the middle of this summer. During fall of 1985, the stockpile area, access road and tram loadout area will be reclaimed. Mr. Benson was told that this would be acceptable to the Division if these time frames were met.

U. S. Steel's April 18, 1984 letter was discussed and the following points were clarified: (numbers correspond to U. S. Steels' response)

1.2

Stability of the dumps will be monitored until bond release. U. S. Steel will submit the criteria which they will use to evaluate stability. If monitoring indicates a potential hazard, the operator must mitigate the hazardous situation. The monitoring report will be submitted as part of the annual report.

2.1, 2.2.3

A variance to Rule M-10(3) may be granted providing that the operator agrees to monitor the level on a monthly basis and submit the information as part of the annual report and that no problems are apparent during the bond release period.

All other responses in the letter are considered adequate by the technical staff.

btb
cc: Laurence Ashdown
Lowell Braxton
8878R-11 & 12

WATER

IN MT. LION PIT